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ACTION ARA-15

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 ACDA-12 SP-02
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full Declassify
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Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 0350

E.O. 12065 N/A
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT POLICE ROUNDUP 43 MOTHERS NEAR PLAZA DE MAYO

REF: BUENOS AIRES 148

1. FEDERAL POLICE AGAIN CLOSED THE PLAZA DE MAYO ON JANUARY 11TH TO PREVENT THE MOTHERS FROM CONDUCTING THEIR USUAL THURSDAY AFTERNOON DEMONSTRATION. THE MOTHERS WERE PHYSICALLY PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE PLAZA DE MAYO, CONSEQUENTLY THERE WAS NO DEMONSTRATION. FORTY-THREE PERSONS WERE IDENTIFIED AND ARRESTED BY PLAINCLOTHESMEN ON STREETS AROUND THE PLAZA AND IN NEARBY COFFEE SHOPS. ALL WERE TAKEN TO THE SECOND PRECINCT AND QUESTIONED ABOUT WHO ORGANIZED THE MOTHERS' DEMONSTRATIONS, THEIR REASONS FOR ATTENDING THE PLAZA DEMONSTRATIONS, ETC. THE GROUP WAS NOT PHYSICALLY HARMED BUT ITS MEMBERS WERE AGHAST TO BE PUT IN A ROOM WITH A DEAD MOTORCYCLIST VICTIM OF AN ACCIDENT HOSRTLY BEFORE. MOST GROUP MEMBERS WERE RELEASED EARLY FRIDAY

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MORNING WITH THE WARNING THAT IF THEY WERE ARRESTED AGAIN THEY WOULD BE SENTENCED TO THIRTY DAYS TO BE SERVED IN VILLA DEVOTO PRISON.

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2. EIGHT OF THE MOTHERS' GROUP CALLED ON AMBASSADOR CASTRO IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE POLICE'S ACTION ASKING THE USG'S INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THE ARRESTED MOTHERS AND FOR THE MOTHERS TO BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE PLAZA DE MAYO. EMBOFFS CONTACTED POLICE AND MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS AND WERE TOLD THAT THE ARRESTED MOTHERS HAD EITHER BEEN RELEASED OR WOULD BE FREED SHORTLY.

3. COMMENT: THURSDAY'S ACTION SHOWED THE GOA'S DETERMINATION TO PUT A STOP TO THE WEEKLY MOTHERS' DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH HAD RECENTLY BECOME LARGER AND MORE VOCAL.
CASTRO

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